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1991/05/03

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ACTION EAP-00

ACTION OFFICE CM-03
INFO OCT-01 P-01 RA-01 EAP-04 COMG-01 /013 A1 DT
INFO LOG-00 AOS-00 AHAD-01 CA-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 HA-03
H-01 INRE-00 INR-01 NCAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-00
/018W

R 030939Z MAY 91
FM AMEMBASSY BEIJING
TO USIA WASHDC 3743
SECSTATE WASHDC 5184
INFO AMCONSUL GUANGZH
AMCONSUL SHANGHAI
AMCONSUL SHENYANG
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
AMCONSUL CHENGDU-POW

United States Department of State
Office of FOI, Privacy, & Classification Review
Review Authority: AINSWORTH, THOMAS
Date: 12/01/94
Case ID: 9301915

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BEIJING 12706

USIA

USIA FOR E/AF, E/ASA, EA; STATE FOR EAP/CH, RA, CA

E.O. 12356: N/A

TAGS: RA, CA, SCUL, CM

SUBJECT: FORMER PRESIDENT CARTER MEETS WITH LI TIEYING--
PROPOSES AMNESTY FOR POLITICAL PRISONERS AND IS TOLD
THAT ALL IS WELL IN CHINA'S CLASSROOMS AND JUDICIARY

1. ENTIRE TEXT LOU.

2. SUMMARY. IN A 14 APRIL MEETING WITH STATE
COUNCILLOR AND SEDC CHAIRMAN LI TIEYING, FORMER
PRESIDENT JIMMY CARTER OUTLINED THE CURRENT PROBLEMS
FACED BY CHINA'S LEADERS IN REBUILDING THE TRUST
NEEDED TO ENCOURAGE THE RETURN OF CHINA'S MORE THAN
50,000 OVERSEAS STUDENTS IN THE U.S., SUGGESTING THAT
A GENERAL AMNESTY FOR POLITICAL PRISONERS ARRESTED AS
A RESULT OF THE 1989 DEMOCRACY MOVEMENT WOULD GO FAR
IN DOING THIS. LI REPLIED BY OUTLINING THE STANDING
CHINESE GOVERNMENTAL POLICIES OF "LENIENCY" TOWARDS
OVERSEAS STUDENTS WHO PARTICIPATED IN PROTESTS AFTER
THE 1989 TIANANMEN INCIDENT, AND SAID THESE WERE
SUFFICIENT. LI STRESSED THAT OF THE OVER 5000
STUDENTS WHO HAD RETURNED EITHER PERMANENTLY OR
TEMPORARILY TO CHINA LAST YEAR, NOT ONE HAD BEEN
DETAINED OR PUNISHED. WHEN PRESSED ABOUT POLITICAL
PRISONERS, LI REPLIED THAT CHINA'S JUDICIARY WAS
INDEPENDENT AND THAT THE RECENT SENTENCING OF PEOPLE
ARRESTED AS A RESULT OF THE "DISTURBANCES" WAS
STRICTLY IN ACCORDANCE WITH CHINESE LAW. ANY FURTHER
QUESTIONS CARTER HAD ON THIS SHOULD BE REFERRED TO
THE SENIOR POLITICAL LEADERS HE WOULD BE MEETING THAT
DAY, LI SAID. END SUMMARY.

3. THE SUNDAY MORNING MEETING IN THE SOUTH RECEPTION
HALL OF THE GREAT HALL OF THE PEOPLE BEGAN WITH LI
WELCOMING CARTER AND PRAISING HIS GUIDING ROLE IN THE
NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS IN 1973, AS WELL AS IN THE
ESTABLISHMENT OF THE BILATERAL EDUCATIONAL EXCHANGE
RELATIONSHIP. HE SAID THAT THIS WAS CARTER'S THIRD

VISIT TO CHINA, A SIGN OF HIS CONCERN AND FRIENDSHIP.

4. CARTER THANKED LI, NOTING THAT ACTUALLY THIS WAS
HIS FOURTH VISIT TO CHINA, HIS FIRST BEING PORT
VISITS AS A YOUNG SEABARINE OFFICER IN 1947, JUST

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BEFORE THE FOUNDED OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC. CARTER
NOTED THAT HIS VISIT SO FAR HAD BEEN VERY SATISFYING,
PARTICULARLY HIS VISIT TO THE NUMBER ONE SCHOOL FOR
THE DEAF YESTERDAY AND THE ONGOING MEETINGS
CONCERNING CHINA'S COOPERATION IN THE GLOBAL 2000
PROGRAM.

5. CARTER THEN DESCRIBED HIS CURRENT WORK AS A
PROFESSOR AT EMORY UNIVERSITY AND VISITING LECTURER
AT EIGHT OR NINE OTHER UNIVERSITIES A YEAR. HE SAID
THAT HIS ROLE IN HELPING ESTABLISH THE SINO-U.S.
EDUCATIONAL EXCHANGE RELATIONSHIP HAS BEEN THE
OCCASION OF HIS BECOMING FRIENDS WITH MANY CHINESE
STUDENTS AT EMORY AND HAS PROVIDED THE OPPORTUNITY
FOR HIM TO MEET WITH MANY OTHER OF THE 50,000 OR SO
CHINESE STUDENTS AT AMERICA'S COLLEGES AND
UNIVERSITIES. HE SAID THAT THESE STUDENTS WERE ON
THE AVERAGE EXCELLENT ACADEMICIANS AND A GREAT
BENEFIT TO U.S. HIGHER EDUCATION.

6. CARTER NOTED THAT AFTER THE 1989 TIAN'ANMEN
INCIDENT, HE HAD WRITTEN A LETTER TO DENG XIAOPING ON
BEHALF OF CHINESE STUDENTS IN THE U.S., ASKING THAT
THEY BE GIVEN AN OPPORTUNITY TO MEET WITH CHINESE
GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS OR AT LEAST LEADING CHINESE
ACADEMICIANS IN THE U.S. TO ADDRESS THEIR CONCERNS

STEMMING FROM THE INCIDENT. DENG HAD REPLIED IN A
LETTER THAT SUCH A MEETING WOULD BE INAPPROPRIATE SO
SOON AFTER THE TIAN'ANMEN VIOLENCE. CARTER NOTED
THAT NOW ALMOST TWO YEARS HAD PASSED SINCE THE
INCIDENT, AND THAT THE CONCERNS OF THE CHINESE
STUDENTS IN THE U.S. REMAINED UNADDRESSED. THIS, HE
SAID, POSED A THREAT TO THE ULTIMATE SUCCESS OF THE
EXCHANGE RELATIONSHIP BY LESSENING THE CHANCES OF THE
STUDENTS' RETURN TO CHINA AFTER THEIR STUDIES.

7. CARTER SAID THAT HIS HOPE WAS THAT LI, TOGETHER
WITH OTHER CHINESE LEADERS SUCH AS LI PENG, WOULD

MAKE EFFORTS TO GET THE TIAN'ANMEN INCIDENT BEHIND
THEM BY WORKING FOR RECONCILIATION AND RESOLVING THE
PROBLEMS STEMMING FROM IT. RIGHT OR WRONG, HE SAID,
THE PERCEPTION OF THE CHINESE STUDENTS IN THE U.S.
NOW REGARDING THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT WAS WORKING
GREAT DAMAGE TO THE RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO
COUNTRIES. WHEN LI RAISED HIS EYEBROWS AT THIS,
CARTER CONTINUED BY SAYING "WAT WITHOUT EXCEPTION,
THE CHINESE STUDENTS IN THE U.S. WERE LOYAL TO CHINA,
AND WERE NOT PROPONENTS OF VIOLENCE. THEY TOO, HE
SAID, WANTED FOR THE PROBLEMS STEMMING FROM JUNE 1989
TO BE PUT IN THE PAST.

8. IT WAS OBVIOUS, CARTER SAID, THAT THE PRC
GOVERNMENT HAD DEMONSTRATED ITS CONTROL AND ITS
ABILITY TO RESTORE ORDER IN CHINA. HIS HOPE AND
SUGGESTION-NOW WAS THAT THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT

DEMONSTRATE ITS DESIRE TO PUT THE INCIDENT IN THE
PAST BY DECLARING AN AMNESTY FOR ALL THOSE INVOLVED
IN THE UNFORTUNATE CONFRONTATION. SUCH AN ACT, HE
SAID, WAS THE ONLY WAY TO RECOVER THE PATH OF
FRIENDSHIP AND COOPERATION BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES
THAT HAD OBTAINED FOR THE TEN YEARS AFTER THE
ESTABLISHMENT OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS.

9. HE NOTED THAT HE PROPOSED THIS AS A PRIVATE
CITIZEN, AN AMERICAN UNIVERSITY PROFESSOR, AND A
FRIEND OF CHINA, AND THAT HE WAS NOT MAKING A

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REPRESENTATION FOR THE USG. THUS THE SUGGESTION WAS
MEANT AS FRIENDLY ADVICE, NOT AS INTERFERENCE IN
CHINESE INTERNAL AFFAIRS. HE ASKED WHETHER HE COULD
GO BACK TO THE U.S. WITH A MESSAGE FOR THE CHINESE
STUDENTS, AND FOR USG OFFICIALS, THAT THE PRC
GOVERNMENT INTENDED TO BIND UP THE WOUNDS INFLECTED
BY THE TRAGEDY THAT HAD TAKEN PLACE.

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IN THE U.S., OUTLINED BY CARTER WERE THE RESULT OF
MISINFORMED MEDIA REPORTING OF THE REAL CONDITIONS IN
CHINA. HE SAID THAT THIS RESULTED IN A LACK OF
KNOWLEDGE ABROAD IN WHAT HAS BEEN HAPPENING IN CHINA
SINCE THE 1989 CIVIL DISTURBANCES BOHGLUAN--AGAIN,
THE TRANSLATOR SOFTENED THE MESSAGE BY SIMPLY
TRANSLATING "THE 1989 INCIDENT".

10. LI REPLIED BY THANKING CARTER FOR HIS VIEWS AND
CONCERN. HE ESPECIALLY THANKED CARTER FOR HIS
ENERGETIC EFFORTS AT PROMOTING CARE FOR THE
HANDICAPPED AND THE TRAINING OF SPECIAL EDUCATION
TEACHERS IN CHINA. HE SAID THAT OVER 240 SUCH
TEACHERS HAD BENEFITTED UNDER THE BEIJING NORMAL
UNIVERSITY SPECIAL EDUCATION TRAINING CENTER
SUPPORTED BY THE GLOBAL 2000 PROGRAM, A CENTER
INAUGURATED BY CARTER HIMSELF AND RECENTLY VISITED
BY LI. HE NOTED IN THIS REGARD THAT THE NATIONAL
PEOPLE'S CONGRESS HAD RECENTLY PROMULGATED A LAW
PROMOTING THE STATUS OF THE DISABLED, AND GIVING THEM

PREFERENTIAL TREATMENT IN A VARIETY OF PUBLIC
SERVICES. HE SAID THAT WITH THE EFFORTS OF FOREIGN
FRIENDS LIKE CARTER AND NATIONAL LEADERS LIKE DENG
PUFANG, CHINA WOULD CONTINUE IN IMPROVING ITS SUPPORT
OF THE HANDICAPPED.

11. LI SAID THAT HE SAID HE WANTED TO REPLY TO
CARTER'S REMARKS ABOUT CHINESE STUDENTS IN THE U.S.
BY OUTLINING THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT'S POLICY TOWARD
THE STUDENTS. HE SAID THAT THE POLICY OF SENDING
CHINESE STUDENTS ABROAD FOR ADVANCED STUDY WAS A
CENTRAL POLICY THAT HAD REMAINED CONSISTENT SINCE THE
OPENING TO THE OUTSIDE WORLD IN 1978 AND THAT "AS
PART AND PARCEL" OF THE POLICY OF OPENNESS, IT WOULD
NOT CHANGE. DESCRIBING THE ONGOING BENEFITS OF THE
SENDING OF CHINESE STUDENTS AND VISITING RESEARCH
SCHOLARS TO THE U.S. IN PARTICULAR, LI NOTED THAT
THOSE WHO HAD GONE ABROAD TO STUDY AND HAD RETURNED
PLAYED A MAJOR ROLE IN CHINESE ACADEMIA. HE POINTED
TO THE CURRENT PRESIDENT OF TSINGHUA UNIVERSITY
(ZHANG XIAOMEN), A RETURNED VISITING RESEARCH SCHOLAR
FROM THE U.S., AS AN EXAMPLE.

12. LI SAID THAT THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT HOPED THAT
EVEN GREATER NUMBERS OF CHINESE STUDENTS WOULD BE
ABLE TO GO ABROAD TO STUDY OTHER NATIONS' SCIENCE AND
TECHNOLOGY AS WELL AS "SUCH CULTURAL TRADITIONS OF
THEIRS AS WERE EXEMPLARY" (TAHNE YOUXIUDE WENHUA

CHUANTONG--NOTE: THE CHINESE TRANSLATOR TRANSLATED

THIS LAST PHRASE BY A SIMPLE "THEIR OUTSTANDING
CULTURAL TRADITIONS" DESPITE THE FACT THAT THE PHRASE
IS GENERALLY USED IN A RESTRICTIVE RATHER THAN A
DESCRIPTIVE SENSE IN CHINESE INTERNAL DOCUMENTS).

13. THIS DESIRE ON THE PART OF THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT
WAS SHOWN IN SEVERAL WAYS. RECENTLY, WITH THE
COOPERATION OF AMBASSADOR JAMES LILLEY, THE BILATERAL
EDUCATIONAL PROTOCOL HAD BEEN EXTENDED FOR THREE
YEARS. THE FULBRIGHT PROGRAM HAD BEEN REINSTITUTED
AND WAS RUNNING SMOOTHLY. LAST YEAR, SOME 14,000
STUDENTS AND SCHOLARS HAD GONE OVERSEAS: 3,000
SPONSORED BY THE CENTRAL PRC GOVERNMENT, 4,500
SPONSORED BY LOCAL GOVERNMENTS, AND 5,000 SPONSORED
PRIVATELY.

14. LI ADDED THAT THE MISGIVINGS OF CHINESE STUDENTS

15. LI SAID THERE WAS NO NEED FOR AN AMNESTY SINCE
THE POLICY TOWARD OVERSEAS STUDENTS HAD BEEN TO
FORGIVE AND DEAL LENIENTLY WITH ALL THOSE WHO
PARTICIPATED IN ANTI-GOVERNMENT PROTESTS ABROAD
DURING THE SPRING OF 1989. HE NOTED THAT HE
PERSONALLY HAD REITERATED THIS POLICY TO CHINESE

STUDENTS AT TSINGHUA UNIVERSITY AND THE UNIVERSITY OF
INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS AND ECONOMICS IN SEPTEMBER
1989 DURING VISITS WITH PARTY GENERAL SECRETARY JIANG
ZENH. HE HAD PUBLICALLY REPEATED THIS DURING
PUBLISHED REMARKS IN SPRING FESTIVAL 1990.

16. FURTHER, LI HAD PERSONALLY VISITED WITH CHINESE
OVERSEAS STUDENTS IN JAPAN IN THE LAST YEAR, AND HAD
REASSURED THEM ON THE MATTER. HE POINTED TO THE
SPECIFIC EXAMPLE OF ONE YOUNG STUDENT IN JAPAN WHO
HAD DEMONSTRATED IN FRONT OF THE CHINESE EMBASSY,
PROTESTING THE CRACKDOWN, AND WHO HAD APPEARED ON
JAPANESE TELEVISION. AFTER REASSURING THE STUDENT
THAT ALL WAS FORGIVEN, THE STUDENT AGREED TO HAVE HIS
PICTURE TAKEN WITH LI, NOW THAT THINGS WERE SET
STRAIGHT AND HE UNDERSTOOD THE REAL CONDITIONS IN
CHINA.

17. LI CLOSED HIS SURVEY OF CHINESE POLICY REGARDING
THE OVERSEAS STUDENTS BY MAKING TWO POINTS-- A) DUE
TO PRESENT CONDITIONS, THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT WAS
WILLING TO ACCEPT EXTENSION REQUESTS FROM STUDENTS
OVERSEAS DESPITE THE FACT THAT THEY MAY HAVE
ORIGINALLY BEEN PUBLICALLY SPONSORED, AND B) OF 5,300
OVERSEAS STUDENTS WHO RETURNED TO CHINA LAST YEAR
(2,300 RETURNING FOR RESIDENCE; 3,000 RETURNING FOR
SHORT-TERM VISITS), NOT ONE HAD EXPERIENCED
PERSECUTION OR HAD BEEN PREVENTED FROM LEAVING THE
COUNTRY AGAIN. COMMENT. THESE NUMBERS ARE
SUBSTANTIALLY DOWN FROM THOSE PREVIOUSLY CITED BY LI
IN SIMILAR MEETINGS, AND ARE LIKELY MUCH CLOSER THE

MARK. END COMMENT.)

18. LI ADDED THAT HE WAS CONTINUING TO WORK WITH
LOCAL UNIVERSITIES IN MAKING CLEAR THESE POLICIES OF
THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT. HE SAID THAT HE HAS
ENCOURAGED UNIVERSITY PRESIDENTS IN CHINA WHO HAVE
SUBSTANTIAL NUMBERS OF OVERSEAS STUDENTS IN THE U.S.
TO MEET WITH THEM WHILE ON TRIPS ABROAD TO FURTHER
"CLARIFY THE REAL SITUATION." HE SAID THAT IF CARTER
HAD THE OPPORTUNITY, HE WOULD APPRECIATE HIS HELP IN
CONVEYING THE POLICY OF LENIENCY TO THE STUDENTS IN
THE U.S., ADDING THAT WERE ANY OF THEM TO ENCOUNTER
DIFFICULTY IN GETTING EXIT PERMITS TO LEAVE THE PRC

AFTER RETURNING FOR FAMILY VISITS, THEY COULD WRITE
TO LI HIMSELF AND HE WOULD PERSONALLY INTERVENE ON
THEIR BEHALF.

19. CARTER REPLIED THAT WHILE THE PERSECUTION ON
WHAT OCCURRED IN MAY AND JUNE OF 1989 IN BEIJING WERE
VERY DIFFERENT, MOST INTERNATIONAL OBSERVERS WERE
AGREED THAT SEVERAL HUNDRED OR PERHAPS OVER 1000

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STUDENTS AND WORKERS WERE KILLED DURING THE NIGHT OF
3-4 JUNE 1989 IN BEIJING. FURTHER, MOST AGREED THAT
MORE THAN 1600 PEOPLE HAD BEEN ARRESTED IN CONNECTION
WITH THE DEMOCRACY MOVEMENT, AND THAT PRISON
SENTENCES OF UP TO 13-15 YEARS HAD BEEN METED OUT IN
SOME CASES, AND WORKERS HAD BEEN SENT TO
REFORM-THROUGH-LABOR CAMPS AS WELL. THOUGH THE
CHINESE GOVERNMENT CLAIMED THAT SUCH REPORTS

EXAGGERATED MATTERS, CARTER CONFESSED THAT HE WAS NOT
IN A POSITION TO JUDGE WHOSE CONSTRUCTION OF EVENTS
WAS ACCURATE. BUT HE REPEATED THAT REGARDLESS OF THE
QUESTION OF NUMBERS, AMNESTY TO THOSE DETAINED IN
CONNECTION WITH THEIR PARTICIPATION IN THE DEMOCRACY
MOVEMENT ITSELF WORTHIER THAN LENIENCY TO OVERSEAS
STUDENTS WHO DEMONSTRATED AFTER THE CRACKDOWN, WAS
THE CLEARER WAY TO RESOLVE THE PROBLEM AND GET THE
MATTER IN THE PAST.

20. LI SMILED AND SAID THAT THE QUESTION OF THE
TRIALS WAS A SEPARATE MATTER, SINCE "THE CHINESE
JUDICIARY IS INDEPENDENT, AND ALL OF THESE COURT
PROCEEDINGS ARE CONDUCTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH CHINESE
LAW." HE SAID THAT CARTER WOULD HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY
TO RAISE THE ISSUE WITH OTHER CHINESE LEADERS THAT HE
MET WITH DURING HIS VISIT. COMMENT. CARTER WAS TO
TO MEET SECRETARY GENERAL JIANG ZHENH AND PREMIER LI
PENG THAT SAME DAY. END COMMENT.

21. RISING AT THE END OF THE MEETING, CARTER ASKED
WHETHER HANDICAPPED STUDENTS IN CHINA WERE ADMITTED
INTO THE UNIVERSITY THROUGH A REGULAR TESTING
PROCEDURE. LI REPLIED THAT BOTH SPECIAL ENROLLMENT
AND MAINSTREAMING WERE USED IN PROVIDING HANDICAPPED
STUDENTS UNIVERSITY EDUCATIONS IN CHINA.

22. PARTICIPANTS IN THE MEETING INCLUDED THE
FOLLOWING: FROM THE CARTER CENTER, PRESIDENT AND
MRS. CARTER, JIM BRASHEAR, TED LINO, AND MELISSA
MONTGOMERY. FROM THE STATE EDUCATION COMMISSION, LI

TIETING. FROM THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, VICE
FOREIGN MINISTER LIU HUAQIU, ZHANG YIJUN, YANG
JIECHI, AND AS INTERPRETER MA XUESONG. FROM THE U.S.
EMBASSY, AMBASSADOR JAMES LILLEY, SCIENCE AND
TECHNOLOGY COUNSELOR ANDRES ONATE, PRESS OFFICER
EDWARD LOO, AND EDUCATIONAL EXCHANGES OFFICER ANTHONY
NUTCHINSON, WHO SERVED AS NOTETAKER.

23. COMMENT. THE MEETING WAS CORDIAL, AND FRIENDLY
DESPITE THE CLEAR DIFFERENCE OF OPINION AND
APPROACH. THE TRANSLATOR TONED DOWN SEVERAL OF LI'S
COMMENTS, WHILE BEING SCRUPULOUS IN RENDERING
CARTER'S SUGGESTIONS. END COMMENT.

24. A COPY OF THIS MESSAGE WAS PROVIDED TO FORMER
PRESIDENT CARTER'S PARTY. HE DID NOT CLEAR THE
TEXT.
LILLEY

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